MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER (*Secretary to Government*): Endeavours made so far to acquire a suitable site have not proved successful.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Will the Honourable member be pleased to give us some idea as to the endeavours made to secure a bus stand at Tiruvalla?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: The Director of Transport fixed up a site. But it so happened that it belonged to a Seminary. Therefore we have to locate a new site.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know whether Government are aware that much inconvenience is caused to the public for want of bus stand?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: Government are aware of that and have already hired a private building. A new site will be selected and arrangements also made for the purpose in view.

MR. M. K. NILAKANTAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kunnattur*): May I know whether any shed has been put up between Kottarakara and Kottayam?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: There is no shed.

Transport bus accident.

59. * MR. P. KOCHUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have enquired into the case of the Transport bus accident on the Changanacherry-Tiruvalla road near Idinjillom on 11-4-1121; and

(*b*) if so, the cause of the accident?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Careless and negligent driving.

MR. P. KOCHUKRISHNA PILLAI: May I know whether the driver concerned is still in service?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: No, he was dismissed?

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know the action taken?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: I said that he was dismissed from service.

State Transport buses.

60. *MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether State Transport buses start at regular intervals from all important centres is notified in papers;

(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, the reasons therefor;

(*c*) whether the Government are aware that there is intolerable overcrowding in the State Transport buses even at present; and

(*d*) whether the Government have enquired into the question of overcrowding in buses with a view to check it, and if so with what result?

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MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: (*a*) Yes, as far as possible.

(*b*) Does not arise in view to answer to (*a*).

(*c*) Yes, overcrowding to a certain extent exists.

(*d*) Yes, there is insufficiency of vehicles to cope with the increased traffic.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: In answer to part (*a*) of the question "whether State Transport buses start at regular intervals from all important centres is notified in papers" the answer is "as far as possible." May I know the basis of that information?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: No reports to the contrary have been received by Government.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Has a report been called for from the Head of the Department?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: The Head of the Department is charged with the duty of seeing that the rules are adhered to. He has not made any report about it. Nor have we received any report from the public.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Have the Government considered it necessary to enquire into that matter now when a number of people have put in the question?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: The report has been called for.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know whether the report will be placed on the table of the House?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: The report cannot be placed on the table. It is confidential.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know whether the Government will be able to give me information as to whether the timings are being adhered to by the Transport Department?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: If the Honourable member brings to the notice of Government any particular instance, the matter will be enquired into in detail.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Suppose a person with experience like me states that buses are not starting at regular intervals, will the Government be pleased to enquire into that matter?

PRESIDENT: If the honourable member says so, an enquiry will at once be made.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Have the Government enquired what the average number of passengers daily is throughout the State?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: No such enquiry has been made.

PRESIDENT: But all the returns are with us.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Have they enquired into the position regarding over-crowding?

PRESIDENT: Has the Honourable member recently gone to Bombay or Madras?

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MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Yes, I have.

PRESIDENT: What was the condition there?

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: The position is much better in those places than here. In the Bombay city itself.....

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI *(Tiruvalla)*: One question.....

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Have the Government ordered for any new bus at any time during this year?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: Yes, Sir.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Have they been able to provide the necessary number of buses?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: Only a few have been received and we are expecting more.

PRESIDENT: We are expecting about 100 buses shortly and I think that will relieve the congestion greatly.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know how many new buses have been put in on the line?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: Twelve.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: With reference to part (c) of the answer, "Yes, over-crowding to a certain extent exists", may I know from the Honourable member the extent to which over-crowding is permitted?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: In view of the difficulty in getting more vehicles and in order to cope with the increasing traffic, the Director has arranged that anything between 40 and 50 can be carried in a bus. For the information of the Honourable member, I may say that during the last 10 months, 5 additional buses have been put in.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know from the Honourable member the passenger capacity of these buses in which 40 and more passenges are carried?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: Including standing space?

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Sitting space—

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: 30 to 35.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether the Honourable member or the Director has ever travelled in ordinary buses?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: Yes Sir, I have travelled.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know what his experience was?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: There was a little over-crowding.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether it was the express or ordinary bus in which he travelled?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: The ordinary bus.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: In which route?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: From Quilon to Kottayam.

MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI: These questions are not in order.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether Government are aware that due to this over-crowding women passengers are feeling great difficulty?

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MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: Both men and women are feeling the difficulty.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Have any measures been formulated in order to obviate the difficulties?

PRESIDENT: What is the measure that the Honourable member would suggest?

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: The same conditions as obtaining in neighbouring British Indian districts may be introduced in Travancore also.

PRESIDENT: What are they?

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: In the neighbouring districts of Tinnevelly and other places, we do not find the situation so bad as in Travancore.

PRESIDENT: That is merely because they get more buses from the Government of India. Indian States are not treated as favourably as British Indian Provinces and we have protested strongly against that action. Partly on account of the protests and partly on account of other pressure brought to bear on the Government of India, they are now, out of the surpluses, giving more buses to us, and even that very grudgingly. It is a matter of great dissatisfaction to us to see that Districts like Madura, Tinnevelly and Madras are treated more favourably than us. Whatever number of buses they require, they are allowed. Mysore, Travancore and Hyderabad have asked for buses, but they have not been given vehicles with anything like the same generosity. The matter has been protested against, but this is all that could be done.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: What is the exact number of buses in running condition?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: 131.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know the average number of buses that collapse every day on the roads?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: I will find it out from the Director of Transport.

MR. P. M. VARGHESE: Since the Honourable member has said that he has already travelled in ordinary buses, may I know from him what his opinion is about the seating arrangements?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: There was difficulty in accommodation.

MR. P. M. VARGHESE: I did not hear.

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: There was difficulty in accommodation and there was overcrowding.

MR. P. M. VARGHESE: The seating arrangements, are they as good as in the express buses?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: The seats were alright.

MR K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: From the trend of the questions asked in this House, have the Government been convinced of the necessity of enquiring into the matter and making a full report to this Assembly?

PRESIDENT: On what?

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: On the inefficient working of the department.

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PRESIDENT: But we are not on the inefficiency of the department; we are talking about the overcrowding.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: The overcrowding is due to the inefficient working of the department. May I know, will the Government submit a report on the matter to this Assembly?

PRESIDENT: The question answers itself.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: But are the Government prepared to give us information within ten days?

PRESIDENT: I have already stated that if the Honourable member brings any instance to the notice of Government, Government will enquire into it and send a reply to the Honourable member.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know whether the Honourable member is also aware that the hopeless condition of our roads is also responsible for the bad condition of the vehicles?

MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI: This question does not arise.

Supervision of the Transport Department.

61. * **MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether superior officers of the Transport Department supervise the work of conducting services, and hear complaints of travellers;

(*b*) whether they are aware that great delay and irregularity result from the inefficient management of garages, causing intolerable inconvenience to passengers; and

(*c*) if the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, what steps have been taken to prevent such inconvenience?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Does not arise in view to part (*b*).

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Are the Government aware that the Garage Department is also being worked very unsatisfactorily?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: They are not aware.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Have they enquired into the matter?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: No, Sir.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Will that also be enquired into?

PRESIDENT: No.

Transport Department.

62. * **MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether amounts have been credited to Government from Transport Department as amounts due to travellers who have to pay more than the actual fare, in whole rupees or currency notes, for want of chuckrams coin, in the years 1118, 1119, 1120 and 1121 till 12-11-1121; and

(*b*) what steps have been taken to prevent such loss to travellers?

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